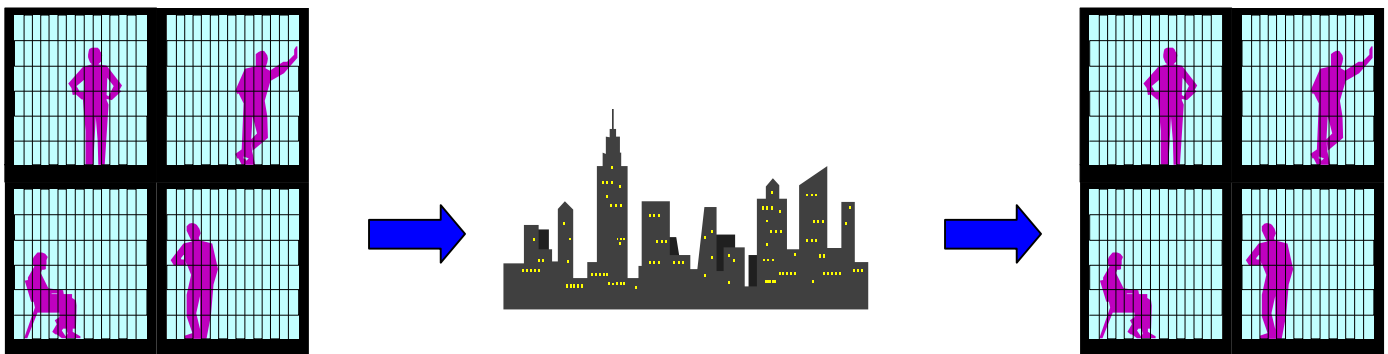


Kentucky Department of Corrections

Recidivism **1996-1998**



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Commissioner

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RECIDIVISM DEFINED

Recidivism, by Kentucky's definition, is an individual's return to the custody of the Department of Corrections within two years of release from a state institution or contract facility by parole, shock probation, or completion of sentence.

Individuals are returned to custody as (1) technical violators or as (2) violators with new sentences.

Due to the limitations of the Department of Corrections' database, persons originally convicted of felonies for which they are placed on probation and felons convicted in other states or in the federal system are not included.

RECIDIVISM IN KENTUCKY 1996-1998 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seven thousand four hundred eight (7,408) inmates were released in 1998 from adult institutions in Kentucky. Two thousand three hundred forty one (2,341) or 31.6% of that number returned to prison within two years.

The data indicates the following:

- ? The overall recidivism rate has gone from a low of 27.2% for those released in 1985 to a high of 34.7% for those released in 1994, decreasing to 31.6% for those released in 1998
- ? Recidivism is highest among violent offenders, however the rate for drug offenders is climbing rapidly.
- ? Inmates who were supervised after release returned at a much greater rate than those who were released by final discharge. i.e. unsupervised
- ? Inmates were more likely to return to prison within the first year following release than the second year.
- ? Young people under the age of 30 returned at a higher rate than any group over that age, with those under 21 returning at the highest rate and those over 50 at the lowest rate.
- ? Males returned to prison more often than females.
- ? Higher percentage of black inmates recidivated than white.
- ? Inmates released from maximum security institutions returned at a higher rate than those released from any other type of institution.

PROFILE OF RELEASES

At the end of 1996, Kentucky was confining 12,906 convicted felons.

By the end of 1998 that number had increased to 15,010. They were divided into the following types of facilities.

TABLE 1: Population By Security Level

	1996	1997	1998
Maximum Security Institutions	824	831	835
Medium Security Institutions	7667	7618	7944
Minimum Security Institutions	1657	2426	2435
Community Centers	394	513	553
Local Jails (CI & CD)	2364	3208	3243
Total	12906	14596	15010

During this same period, 6,652 inmates were released in 1996; 6,505 in 1997 and 7,408 in 1998. The number of inmates released from local jails has increased significantly with the growing population of the Class D program.

TABLE 2: Inmates Released By Security Level

	Maximum	Medium	Minimum	Community Centers	Local Jails
1989 Released	118	1053	915	357	690
1996 Released	154	2540	1237	409	2312
1997 Released	154	2402	1122	349	2478
1998 Released	143	2537	1321	467	2940
1989 % Released	3.8%	33.6%	29.2%	11.4%	22.0%
1996 % Released	2.3%	38.2%	18.6%	6.1%	34.8%
1997 % Released	2.4%	36.9%	17.2%	5.4%	38.1%
1998 % Released	1.9%	34.2%	17.8%	6.3%	39.7%

From a historical perspective the percent of inmates released from a local jails increased over 17% from 1989 to 1998. In 1996, 716 (10.8%) of the releases were female and 5,936 (89.2%) were male. In 1997, 700 (10.8%) were female and 5,805 (89.2%) were male. In 1998, 862 (11.6%) were female and 6,545 (88.4%) were male. In 1996, 2,346 (35.5%) of the released were black and 4,269 (64.5%) were white. In 1997 the number was 2,405 (37.2%) black and 4052 (62.8%) white. In 1998 the number of blacks had increased to 2,853 (38.8%) and 4,497 (61.2%) white. The remaining releases consisted of Hispanics, Asian Native American or Other Races.

Inmates released were serving sentences for following types of offenses.

TABLE 3: Inmates Released By Crime Type

	Violent	Sex	Drug	Weapon	Property	Other
1989 Released	785	142	437		1605	
1996 Released	1432	312	1887	95	2290	634
1997 Released	1422	350	1870	61	2126	675
1998 Released	1584	306	2279	65	2457	716
1989 % Released	25.5%	4.6%	14.2%		52.1%	
1996 % Released	21.5%	4.7%	28.4%	1.4%	34.4%	9.5%
1997 % Released	21.9%	5.4%	28.8%	.9%	32.7%	10.4%
1998 % Released	21.4%	4.1%	30.8%	.9%	33.2%	9.7%

The percent of inmates released for drug offenses has increased significantly from 14.2% of total releases in 1989 to 30.8% in 1998. At the same time the percent of property offenders released fell from 52.1% of total released to 33.2% for the same time period.

The majority of inmates were released to supervision (parole or shock probation), rather than non-supervised (serve out). The percent of non-supervised has grown steadily since 1989.

TABLE 4: Inmates Released, Supevised vs. Non-Supervised

	Non-Supervised	Supervised
1989 Released	1006	2127
1996 Released	2828	3824
1997 Released	3234	3271
1998 Released	3632	3776
1989 % Released	32.1%	67.9%
1996 % Released	42.5%	57.5%
1997 % Released	49.7%	50.3%
1998 % Released	49.0%	51.0%

Ages at the time of release were as follows:

TABLE 5: Inmates Released By Age

	1996 Released	1997 Released	1998 Released	1996 % Released	1997 % Released	1998 % Released
Under 21	355	363	490	5.3%	5.6%	6.6%
21-24	1112	1056	1179	16.7%	16.2%	15.9%
25-29	1344	1253	1445	20.2%	19.3%	19.5%
30-34	1350	1297	1337	20.3%	19.9%	18.0%
35-39	1132	1169	1282	17.0%	18.0%	17.3%
40-44	668	712	890	10.0%	10.9%	12.0%
45-49	374	338	396	5.6%	5.2%	5.3%
50 Over	317	317	389	4.8%	4.9%	5.3%

RECIDIVISM RATE FOR 1996 – 1998 DEMOGRAPHICS OF INMATES

The figures in Table 6 indicate that the recidivism rate for males is approximately 5.6% higher than for females. The rate for blacks is 10.8% higher than for whites. The recidivism rate is highest for violent offender (37.4% in 1996 and 34.8% in 1997, 36.0% in 1998.) The rate for drug offenders and property offenders has decreased in the last 3 years.

TABLE 6: Recidivism Rate By Sex/Race

	Female	Male	Black	White
1996 Releases	716	5936	2346	4269
Returned	184	2089	1031	1237
1996 Recidivism Rate	25.7%	35.2%	43.9%	29.0%
1997 Releases	700	5805	2405	4052
Returned	172	1897	935	1127
1997 Recidivism Rate	24.6%	32.7%	38.9%	27.8%
1998 Releases	862	6545	2853	4497
Returned	230	2111	1096	1240
1998 Recidivism	26.7%	32.3%	38.4%	27.6%

TABLE 7: Recidivism Rate By Crime Type

	Drug	Other	Property	Sex	Violent	Weapons
1996 Releases	1887	634	2290	312	1432	95
Returned	700	172	798	30	535	38
1996 Recidivism Rate	37.1%	27.1%	34.8%	9.6%	37.4%	40.0%
1997 Releases	1870	675	2126	350	1422	61
Returned	659	165	693	39	495	18
1997 Recidivism Rate	35.2%	24.4%	32.6%	11.1%	34.8%	29.5%
1998 Releases	2279	716	2457	306	1584	65
Returned	730	191	794	37	570	19
1998 Recidivism Rate	32.0%	26.7%	32.3%	12.1%	36.0%	29.2%

RECIDIVISM RATE BY URBAN / NON-URBAN

Offenders in urban areas, regardless of sex, race or crime type usually have higher recidivism rates than those offenders from non-urban areas, however that difference seems to be decreasing. The largest difference for 1998 was 5.8% for sex offenders and 5.0% for violent offenders.

For purposes of this report, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, McCracken (Paducah), Warren (Bowling Green), Daviess (Owensboro), Jefferson, Fayette and Boyd (Ashland) are considered urban.

TABLE 8: Recidivism Rate By Urban/Non-Urban

	Male	Female	Black	White
1996 Urban	40.3%	27.9%	44.7%	33.5%
1996 Non-Urban	30.1%	23.3%	42.1%	26.1%
1997 Urban	36.2%	24.7%	38.6%	30.8%
1997 Non-Urban	29.2%	24.4%	39.5%	26.0%
1998 Urban	34.1%	28.8%	36.6%	30.2%
1998 Non-Urban	30.4%	24.2%	42.7%	26.0%

TABLE 9: Recidivism Rate by Urban/Non-Urban vs. Crime Type

	Drug	Other	Property	Sex	Violent	Weapon
1996 Urban	42.3%	32.9%	38.4%	10.7%	42.5%	34.9%
1996 Non-Urban	31.0%	22.7%	31.9%	8.7%	30.5%	44.2%
1997 Urban	37.8%	25.6%	34.3%	16.7%	38.8%	23.8%
1997 Non-Urban	32.1%	23.5%	31.1%	7.0%	29.7%	32.5%
1998 Urban	34.1%	26.2%	33.1%	15.6%	38.1%	33.3%
1998 Non-Urban	29.5%	27.2%	31.7%	9.8%	33.1%	26.8%

RECIDIVISM RATES BY SUPERVISED / NON-SUPERVISED AGE-CUSTODY LEVEL RELEASE TIME

Offenders under supervision i.e., parolees, recidivated at a rate of 46.6% for 1998, 30.5% higher rate than those who served out their sentence. Most parolees are returned for technical violations not commission of a new crime. Inmates under supervision can be returned to prison for violating rules of probation and parole while those who serve out their sentence can only be returned to prison if they are convicted of a new felony.

Recidivism is directly linked to the age of the offender at release, the younger the offender the more likely to return to prison. Inmates under 21 who were released in 1994 returned one half of their number to prison within 2 years.

Inmates released from community based facilities were less likely to recidivate than those released from more secure institutions.

Approximately 57% of those released in 1998 returning to prison did so within the first year. The highest rate of return was between 6 months and 1 year of release.

**TABLE 10: Recidivism Rates By
Type of Release**

	Non –Supervised	Supervised
1996 Released	2828	3824
1996 Returned	512	1761
1996 % Returning	18.1%	46.1%
1997 Released	3234	3271
1997 Returned	525	1544
1997 % Returning	16.2%	47.2%
1998 Released	3632	3776
1998 Returned	583	1758
1998 % Returning	16.1%	46.6%

TABLE 11: Recidivism Rate By Age at Release

	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 Over
1996 Released	355	1112	1344	1350	1132	668	374	317
1996 Returned	178	460	490	439	356	199	96	55
1996 % Returning	50.1%	41.4%	36.5%	32.5%	31.4%	29.8%	25.7%	17.4%
1997 Released	363	1056	1253	1297	1169	712	338	317
1997 Returned	150	385	454	435	322	206	70	47
1997 % Returning	41.3%	36.5%	36.2%	33.5%	27.5%	28.9%	20.7%	14.8%
1998 Released	490	1179	1445	1337	1282	890	396	389
1998 Returned	224	441	474	425	382	231	97	67
1998 % Returning	45.7%	37.4%	32.8%	31.8%	29.8%	26.0%	24.5%	17.2%

TABLE 12: Recidivism Rate By Security Level at Release

	Halfway Houses	Local Jails	Maximum	Medium	Minimum
1996 Released	409	2312	154	2540	1237
Returned	140	617	79	981	456
1996 % Returning	34.2%	26.7%	51.3%	38.6%	36.9%
1997 Released	349	2478	154	2402	1122
Returned	115	596	72	871	415
1997 % Returning	33.0%	24.1%	46.8%	36.3%	37.0%
1998 Released	467	2940	143	2537	1321
Returned	149	787	72	864	469
1998 % Returning	31.9%	26.8%	50.3%	34.1%	35.5%

TABLE 13: Return Date From Time of Release

	6 Months	1 Year	18 Months	2 Years
1996 # Released				
Returned	747	468	340	483
1996 % Total Returning	36.7%	23.0%	16.7%	23.7%
1997 # Released				
Returned	617	476	319	430
1997 % Total Returning	33.5%	25.8%	17.3%	23.3%
1998 # Released				
Returned	498	691	505	395
1998 % Total Returning	23.8%	33.1%	24.2%	18.9%

RECIDIVISM

Comparison of Recidivism Rates

As the figures below indicate, the recidivism rates for Kentucky rose from 1985 through 1988, decreased slightly from 1989 through 1992, climbing steadily for 2 years, but started decreasing in 1995.

TABLE 14: Recidivism History

Year	Rate
1985	27.2%
1986	29.2%
1987	30.1%
1988	32.9%
1989	30.8%
1990	30.2%
1991	29.5%
1992	29.2%
1993	33.4%
1994	34.7%
1995	33.1%
1996	34.2%
1997	31.8%
1998	31.6%

RECIDIVISM RATES BY NEW SENTENCE/TECHNICAL VIOLATION

A 10 year history of recidivism rate shows a rise from 1985 through 1998, a small decrease from 1989 through 1992 and a rapid rise since 1992 leveling off in 1995. The rates between New Convictions and Technical Violations seems to be growing at the same rate, although technical violators are over twice the rate of New Convictions.

Violations that can cause a person to become technical violator include the use of alcohol or drugs, failure to report curfew violation, possession of firearms, absconding, and failure to attend a treatment meeting or maintain employment.

TABLE 15: Recidivism Rates By New Sentence/Technical

	New Convictions		Technical Violators	
	Number	Recidivism Rate	Number	Recidivism Rate
1985	287	10.3%	476	17.1%
1986	272	10.0%	525	19.3%
1987	247	9.1%	578	21.4%
1988	271	8.7%	760	24.3%
1989	256	8.3%	695	22.6%
1990	302	8.0%	846	22.3%
1991	310	7.4%	920	22.5%
1992	376	7.4%	1102	21.7%
1993	538	9.4%	1382	24.0%
1994	631	10.8%	1404	23.9%
1995	620	10.4%	1342	22.6%
1996	709	10.7%	1564	23.5%
1997	685	10.5%	1383	21.3%
1998	723	9.8%	1613	21.8%

COMPARISON OF 1989-1998 RECIDIVISM RATE

The largest growth in recidivism rates are for females, blacks and drug offenders. The recidivism rate for drug offenders has grown by nearly 57% in 9 years.

TABLE 16: Comparison of 1989 and 1998 Recidivism Rate

	1989 Rate	1998 Rate
Female	20.2%	26.7%
Male	31.9%	32.3%

	1989 Rate	1998 Rate
Drug	20.4%	32.0%
Other	19.1%	26.7%
Property	33.8%	32.3%
Sex	16.9%	12.1%
Violent	34.9%	36.0%

	1989 Rate	1998 Rate
Black	36.7%	38.4%
White	28.4%	27.6%